

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

A bipartisan moment of silence for troops who have fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan organized by Reps. Rangel and Walsh will occur during the first series of votes expected at approximately noon - 12:30 p.m.

H.Res. __ - Expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives to its Parliamentarian, the Honorable Charles W. Johnson (*Rep. Hastert*)

H.R. 4200 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (*Rep. Hunter - Armed Services*) (Structured Rule – Complete Consideration). This bill authorizes \$422.2 billion for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy and \$25 billion in emergency budget authority to partially cover the projected costs of continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yesterday, the House completed general debate and considered seven of the twenty-eight amendments made in order by the Rule (two of these amendments still require a recorded vote that will be taken today). Today, the House will consider the following amendments (including 4 new amendments added by unanimous consent last night):

- **Jones, Walter (NC) Amendment (20 Minutes).** This amendment adds the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy to the list of institutions covered under section 556 of the bill regarding prayer at military service academies.
- **Kennedy, Mark (MN) Amendment (20 Minutes).** This amendment eliminates the 2-year BRAC delay contained in H.R. 4200 and requires certain reports be submitted to Congress approximately six months before any potential vote to disapprove the recommendations of the BRAC Commission in order to review and hold hearings on the report.
- **Tauscher/Markey/Skelton/Dicks/Allen/Spratt Amendment (20 Minutes).** This amendment transfers \$36.6 million from the Department of Energy Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator and Advanced Concepts programs to increase intelligence capabilities to get at hard and deeply buried targets and improve conventional bunker-busting capabilities.
- **Hunter Amendment (10 Minutes).** This amendment provides among other provisions that individuals that support programs of the "Employer Support of the Guard and the Reserve" are to be considered federal employees for the purposes of protection under various federal laws; and increases the transfer authority contained in the FY04 Defense Authorization Act from \$2.5 billion to \$3.0 billion.
- **Wamp Amendment (10 Minutes).** This amendment (1) Eliminates pay cap for physicians and lets the market set the rate; (2) Eliminates restrictions on hiring authority; and (3) Eliminates the requirement that an application can only go to Panel if a State agreement is in place.
- **Dicks Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment clarifies provisions in the bill relating to tanker procurement and recommends a deadline of March 1, 2005 for the Department of Defense to resolve contract negotiations on tankers.
- **Hastings, Doc (WA) Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment restores \$100 million to the Energy Department's Defense Site Acceleration Completion account for a total of \$350 million for "Waste Incidental to Reprocessing."
- **Maloney Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment directs the Defense Secretary to eliminate the backlog in forensic evidence collection kits and to provide an adequate supply of forensic evidence collection kits at all domestic and overseas U.S. military installations, military academies, and theaters of operation.
- **Chabot Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment requires that sureties would be treated in the same manner as financing institutions when contractors default.
- **Manzullo Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment allows Defense Department procurement officials to include the creation of jobs in the U.S. as an evaluation factor in a competitive procurement process.
- **Davis, Danny (IL) Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment authorizes landscaping services and pest control for inclusion in the Comp Demonstration program.
- **Weldon, Curt (PA) Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment would permit the firefighter's Federal Excess Property Program to screen Defense Department excess property at the same level of law enforcement, defense contractors, defense-related organizations, and humanitarian services for combating forest fires and other fire suppression purposes.
- **Brown, Henry (SC) Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment expands the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Disposal Program to include health agencies.
- **Brown, Henry (SC) Amendment (10 Minutes).** This amendment requires the Secretary of Defense, when submitting a budget request for construction of a military medical treatment facility, to certify that the facility was evaluated for the feasibility of establishing a joint DOD-VA medical facility. It also requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, when proposing construction of a new or replacement medical facility, to certify that the facility was evaluated for the feasibility of establishing a joint DoD-VA medical facility.

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- **Johnson, Timothy (IL) Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment provides authority for removal of remains of certain persons interred in U.S. Military Cemeteries overseas.
- **Baird Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment requires the Defense Secretary to study various aspects of mental health services available to U.S. military personnel deployed to combat theaters and to submit results of the study within 90 days of enactment.
- **Hefley Amendment (10 Minutes).** This amendment changes the make up of the Air Force Academy Board of Visitors.
- **Ryun, Jim (KS)/Bordallo Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment requires the Defense Secretary to initiate senior officer official educational and training programs with Taiwan; and specifies that the exchanges would focus on the defense of Taiwan against a potential submarine attack and potential missile attack, and would also include activities related to civil-military relations, including parliamentary relations.
- **Flake/Weldon (PA)/Bordallo/Simmons/Franks/Jones (NC)/Wilson (SC) Amendment (10 Minutes).** This amendment corrects an Army regulation that requires South Korea-based combat troops to be involved in 5 firefights in order to qualify for their combat recognition medals (the Combat Infantry Badge and the Combat Medical Badge).
- **Shimkus Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment allows the Secretary of the Army to establish a Combat Service Recognition Ribbon to recognize participation in combat by members of the Army, regardless of branch; and also sets up a recognition ribbon for every member of the Army that is involved in combat that meets the criteria to receive the Combat Service Ribbon.
- **Smith, Adam (WA) Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment allows the Defense Department, the Nisqually Tribe, and Bonneville Power Administration to complete their agreement to move power lines currently crossing the Nisqually Indian Reservation to land on the Fort Lewis Army base.
- **Cunningham Amendment (10 minutes)** regarding a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Skelton Amendment (10 minutes)** authorizing an increase of \$6.6 million for Robins Air Force Base in Georgia.
- **Israel Amendment (10 minutes)** regarding funding for the Aircraft Wireless Intercom System and for blade-fold kits for Apache helicopters.
- **Hobson/Norton Amendment (10 minutes)** regarding tuition assistance to members of the D.C. Army and Air National Guard.

Postponed recorded votes (2 amendments):

- **Weldon, Curt (PA)/Murtha Amendment.** This amendment expresses the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should assist the Iraqi Government in destroying the Abu Gharib prison and replacing it with a modern detention facility.
- **Slaughter/Capito/Solis/Brown-Waite Amendment.** This amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive policy for the Department of Defense on the prevention of and response to sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces.

H.R. 4359 - Child Credit Preservation and Expansion Act (*Rep. Porter - Ways & Means*)

(Subject to a Rule). This bill provides for a permanent child tax credit at a cost of **\$228 billion** and is not paid for. This bill: accelerates the increase in the refundable portion of the child tax credit from 10% to 15% in 2004 rather than 2005 at a cost of approximately **\$1.5 billion**; raises the joint phase-out threshold of the Child Tax Credit from \$110,000 to \$250,000 starting in 2005 at a cost of nearly **\$65 billion**; maintains the \$1,000 level of the child tax credit for all families (including the high-income expansion) through 2010, and making that credit level permanent at a cost of approximately \$160 billion (\$50 billion through 2009 and \$110 billion from 2010 on); and fixes the combat pay issue for members of the Armed Services who may lose the refundable credit (by treating combat pay as taxable income for the purposes of computing the child tax credit only -- without taxing it) as suggested by Democrats last year. **Democrats are urged to VOTE NO.**

The Rules Committee has recommended a modified closed rule that provides for one hour of general debate and makes in order the following amendment.

- **Rangel Substitute Amendment (1 hour).** This substitute provides more assistance to low-income families (including the two low-income benefits contained in H.R. 4359), protects the value of the credit in the future and offsets the cost of making the child tax credit permanent. Democrats would: extend the \$1,000 credit and would not increase the income limits on the credit; and provide inflation adjustments to the \$1,000 per child credit. In that respect, the Democratic substitute would provide greater benefits for virtually all families with incomes below the current phaseout amounts. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**

Daily Quote...

"The Speaker is correct in that nothing we are called upon to do comes close to matching the heroism of our troops. All we are called upon to do is to not spend our nation into bankruptcy while our soldiers risk their lives. I fondly remember a time when real Republicans stood for fiscal responsibility."

- Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), in the *Los Angeles Times* today, responding to comments by Speaker Dennis Hastert criticizing McCain's opposition to extending tax cuts during wartime and questioning whether McCain is really a Republican.